

N. P. B. CURTISS.



BOSTON:

OLIVER DITSON COMPANY.

NEW YORK!

CHICAGO:

PHILADELPHIA:

C. H. DITSON & CO.

LYON & HEALY.

J. E. DITSON & CO.

JOHN C. HAYNES & CO.

CURTISS

ACME BANJO METHOD

CONTAINING

The First Rudiments of Music,

WITH A

PERFECT AND FULL SET OF DIAGRAMS,

SHOWING

EVERY KEY, CHORD AND SCALE UPON THE BANJO.

ALSO A FINE COLLECTION OF

PROGRESSIVE INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL PIECES,

Selected and Arranged Expressly for this Work,

---BY---

N. P. B. CURTISS,

Author of "Curtiss" Celebrated Guitar Method.

BOSTON:

Copyright, 1886, by

#OLIVER DITSON & CQ.₽

New York: CHAS. H. DITSON & CO. CHICAGO: LYON & HEALY. PHILA.: J. E. DITSON & CO.

PUBLISHERS' PREFACE.

One cannot look far into this admirable and useful instructor, without being convinced that the compiler is a true, clear-headed and sympathetic teacher; one who is willing to explain the numerous *little* things that a pupil needs to know, instead of the few *great* things, that are, to be sure, necessary, but are, after all, only a few of a great many.

Accordingly, he partially fills his book with diagrams, showing exactly where the fingers are to be in the important chords of all the keys. This is a decided advance on all other books.

The page which so simply explains the structure of chords is especially noticeable, as making what is usually a very difficult thing very easy.

Further explanation of what in itself is so perfectly plain, is superfluous.

The book is heartily commended to the notice of all who like this popular, and now quite refined, instrument, The Banjo.

OLIVER DITSON & CO., Publishers.

Of the Slur (or snap) Notes.

The slur (or snap) note, is indicated by this sign — over or under two notes that are to be snapped. See Examples.

Examples.



Play D, then draw the finger one side to sound B, below, &c.

Play E, let the 2d finger fall like a hammer on F, above, &c.

Of the Slide.

The slide like this or is produced by one finger on the same string of the *left hand*, which slides along the *finger-board*, passing over all the frets from the first to the next note, after having struck with the *right hand* the first of the two notes. See Examples.



ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF MUSIC.

PART FIRST.

OF THE LETTERS.

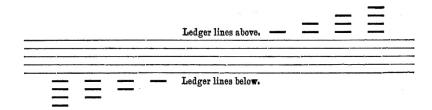
As a means of naming the different tones, it is usual to employ the first seven letters of the alphabet, viz: A, B, C, D, E, F, G. When a melody exceeds these seven tones, they are to be repeated or extended, as far as may be required. In a regular composition, the whole length of the Gamut, or Scale, is sometimes needed.

OF THE STAVE.

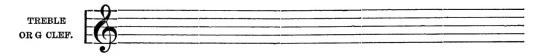
The notes are written on or between five parallel *lines*, called a Stave. The intervals between the lines are called Spaces. Both lines and spaces are *numbered* from the bottom of the stave upwards; thus,



Small lines, called Ledger lines, are written above or below the stave, when those of the stave are insufficient: thus,

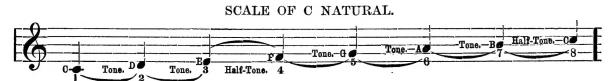


The notes, without regard to their form, are distinguished, as to mere sound, by their position on the stave. To establish their names, it is also necessary that a sign, called a *Clef* should be used. There are two kinds of Clefs used in modern music. The Treble or G Clef, only, is made use of in compositions for the Banjo, and is always placed at the beginning of the stave: Thus,

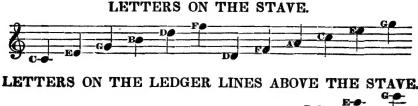


OF THE GAMUT, OR DIATONIC SCALE.

The union of the seven letters in their regular order, with repetition of the first, forms the Gamut, or Diatonic Scale: thus,



The progress of the pupil will be much facilitated, by committing thoroughly to memory the following examples:

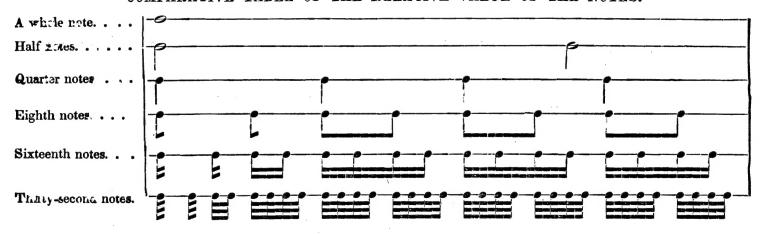




OF THE VALUE OF THE NOTES AND RESTS.

it is readily perceived, from hearing a piece of music, that it is not composed entirely from any particular combination of notes, for the mere combination would possess but little variety; but that the length of the notes, relatively greater or less is an essential part of it. The relative duration is called the *Value of the notes*, and is shown by the peculiar form of each note

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE RELATIVE VALUE OF THE NOTES.



Besides the above example of notes, there are sixty-fourth notes, having four bars, thus, which are equivalent to one whole note. Then in the same ratio, one whole note is equal to two half notes, or four quarter notes, or eight eighth notes, and so on downward. One half note to two quarter notes, &c. One quarter note to two eighth notes, &c. One eighth note to two sixteenth notes, &c. One thirty-second note to two sixty-fourth notes.

OF THE RESTS.

Rests, in a composition, show the music ceases to be performed during certain intervals of time. They afford repose to the singer or player, prevent confusion between phrases or members of phrases, and aid in producing musical effects. The rests have values corresponding to those of the notes; thus, the whole rest is equal to the whole note; the half rest to the half note; the quarter rest to the quarter note; the eighth rest to the eighth note, &c.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF RESTS.



OF THE DOTTED, AND DOUBLE DOTTED NOTES AND RESTS.

The different values of the note, according to the preceding tables, are insufficient to express all musical ideas. A note wanted might be of a length relatively less than the half note, but greater than the quarter; and as there are no notes of Intermediate value between the half and quarter, quarter and eighth, or between any of the other notes, the Dot is used to supply their place: thus, A dot placed after a note increases its length one half of its original value; a dotted whole note is equal to three half notes, a dotted half to three quarter notes, a dotted quarter to three eighths, a dotted eighth to three sixteenths, a dotted sixteenth to three thirty-seconds, a thirty-second to three sixty-fourths.

The following table will show the manner of writing the dotted notes.

TABLE OF DOTTED NOTES.



When a second dot is added to the first, following a whole note, nalf, quarter, eighth, sixteenth, &c., its value is equal to half that of the first; see example.

EXAMPLE SHOWING THE DOUBLE DOT.



The single and double dot, which were explained in the preceding examples, are also placed after the rests, and increase their value in the same proportion; see example.

EXAMPLE OF THE DOTTED AND DOUBLE DOTTED RESTS.

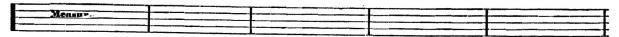


OF TIME.

THE SIGNS OF THE SINGLE AND DOUBLE BARS.

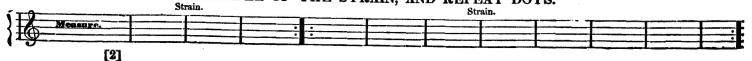
Every piece of music is divided into short and equal portions called *Measures*, by small *bars* drawn perpendicularly across the stave. The measures are themselves considered as divisible into two, three, or four parts, according to the species of time announced at the beginning of each piece.

EXAMPLE OF THE MEASURE.



The main divisions in a piece of music, are called strains, they are expressed by a Double Bar. When dots are placed before the Double Bar, thus, they show that the division previous to it is repeated; when after, thus, that the division following is repeated; see example.

EXAMPLE OF THE STRAIN, AND REPEAT DOTS.



OF THE SPECIES OF TIME.

There are two principal kinds of time; Common time, containing two or four equal parts, in each measure; and Triple time, containing three equal parts. Each of these times may be Simple or Compound.

Simple common times are indicated by C, or C, containing two half or four quarter notes; and 2-4, containing two quarter or four eighth notes, in each measure.

Simple triple times are 3-4, or three quarter notes; and 3-8, or three eighth notes in each measure.

Compound common times are 6-8, or six eighth notes, or two dotted quarters; and 12-8, or twelve eighth notes, or four dotted quarter notes in each measure.

Compound triple times are 9-4, or nine quarter, or three dotted half notes; and 9-8, or nine eighth, or three dotted quarter notes in each measure.

In counting time, if the movement be slow, count by eighth notes; if quick, by quarter or dotted quarter notes: see example.

EXAMPLES OF TIME.



In common, two-four, three-four, and nine-four times, the value of a quarter note establishes the beats or counts; in three-eight, six-eight, nine-eight, and twelve-eight times, that of an eighth note is used. See examples.

EXAMPLES SHOWING THE VALUE OF THE BEATS OR COUNTS.



OF THE TRIPLET.

When three eighth, (or any other,) notes are played in the time of two, of the same name, or six in the time of four, such groups are called Triplets; and, to render them plain, it is usual to place the figure 3 over or under the three notes taken for two, and the figure 6 over or under the six notes taken for four: see example.

EXAMPLE SHOWING THE USE OF THE FIGURES 3 AND 6.



OF THE SHARP, FLAT, AND NATURAL.

The Sharp (#, is a sign which raises a note a semitone. The Flat (b) lowers it a semitone, and the Natural (*) restores a note, altered by a sharp or flat, to its original sound. A Sharp or Flat placed next to a note, is called an Accidental, and acts only, in the measure in which it occurs. When these signs are placed at the commencement of a piece of music, namely; at the Clef to point its tone, all the notes which are on the same line or space, (or any line or space of the same name,) on which these signs are placed, are affected by them. There are as many sharps and flats as there are letters, they, like the latter, are laced on and between the lines, commencing with F, the sharps ascend by fifths and descend by fourths. The Flats are placed, commencing with B, in ascending, by fourths, and in descending by fifths, thus:



There is also a Double Sharp, (*) which raises a note a whole tone, and a Double Flat (bb) which lowers a note a whole tone

OF THE INTERVALS. (OR DEGREES.)

The listance between two sounds, or from one line to a space, or from one space to a line is called an Interval, or Degree



A pupil with a good ear will readily discover that the degrees of the scale are various, for example, the degree from C to D greater than E to F. The first of these degrees is called a tone, and the second a half tone, &c. See Diatonic scale on page 3.

OF THE TONIC AND MODE, OR KEY.

A tone is a sound which determines a fundamental letter on which a piece of music is established. Every letter can become a fundamental letter or *Tonic*. The *Mode* or key, is the character of a tone; they are of two kinds, viz: the *Major* and the *Minor* mode or key. The mode is *Major*, when there are two full tones from its Tonic to its third, and *Minor*, when there is a tone and half tone from its Tonic to its third: thus,



The Key of a piece of music is indicated by the number of Sharps or Flats which are at the Clef, or Signature. Each Major key, which we call the principal key, has a relative Minor key. It is called relative, because, it is marked at the signature by the same number of sharps or flats at its principal key, except the key of C Major, and its relative A Minor, which have no signature. The relative Minor key is a tone and a half tone below its principal key, as the following table shows.





To shorten the study of the foregoing tables, and to know in which key a piece of music is, it is necessary to know that when there are no flats or sharps at the signature, it is in C Major or A Minor: with the #, the major key is one half tone above the last sharp added to the signature; and the Minor key two half tones below it; with the b, the Major key is five half tones below the last flat added to the signature; and in the Minor key four half tones above. To know whether we are in the principal key of the Major Mode, or in its relative Minor, it is necessary to examine whether the fifth of the Major key is accidentally altered by a sharp or flat; if not, we are in the principal Major key; if it is altered, we are in the relative Minor

OF ABBREVIATIONS.

To abbreviate is to represent several notes by a single one, or by a single sign. This is sometimes done for want of room in the stave, and sometimes to save time and labour in the writing or copying, or to avoid repetitions of a single note of passage. Example:



THE PAUSE, () is placed over notes and rests, and denotes that the performer may stop at pleasure. Example.



DA CAPO, or D. C. indicates that the performer must begin the piece again, and end at the first double bar, or continue to the word Fine. The Sign \$. indicates that the performer must return to one of the same, and end as D C.

SIGNS INDICATING THE DEGREE OF POWER.

Piano or n	_												Soft.	{ ·	mf							c			•	•		. Half loud
															sfz	sf fa	or	· >										Suddenly loud.
pp	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Cly Bolts	}	9,~	w		-	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	G 1 11-1-1
Dolce or dol					•		•			•	•	•	Sweet.	}	rfz	rf or	_		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Gradually loud.
forte or f.												•	Loud.	}	Cre.	s or	_			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	I	ncrease in sound.
f	•	•	•				•					V	ery loud.	{	Din	or o	deci	res (OF T	_	=	-	•	•	•	•	D	iminish in sound.

We would recommend that every learner be provided with a copy of Hamilton's Dictionary of One Thousand Musical terms, signs and abbreviations.

CURTISS

ACME BANJO METHOD.

PART SECOND.

The Manner in which the Banjo is Strung.

The Banjo has five strings; the 1st, 2d, 3d and 5th strings are gut; the 4th string is of silk, covered with silver, and is called the bass string. For the first get a violin E string; for the second get an A violin string; for the third a D violin string; for the fourth a D guitar string. Some dealers have 4th strings made expressly for the banjo, but as the guitar strings are long enough for properly constructed banjos, they answer all purposes. For the fifth string, get a very fine E violin string.

The Manner of Holding the Banjo and the Position of the Hands.

The performer should sit in an easy, natural position. The hoop, or rim of the banjo, should rest on the right thigh, close to the body, so that the wrist of the right hand will come directly over the bridge, the thumb over the fifth string, the second finger over the first string, and the first finger over the second string.

The Left Hand and Arm.

The left hand should lightly press the neck between the thumb and forefinger; the end of the thumb rest on the side next to the silver string, between the nut and the first fret, and the large joint of the forefinger at the nut, (the end of the fingerboard where the strings pass over to the keys,) on the side next the first string. The arm should hang easy, graceful and natural, with the elbow separated a short distance from the body, taking care to hold the forearm and wrist curved; the fingers to be separated and held as hammers, ready to strike the strings at the first and second frets. The fingers in this position will naturally fall on the two first strings, and when required to reach the third string, the wrist should be still more curved and the thumb brought more under the neck.

The Manner in which the Banjo is Tuned.

Commence tuning the short, or thumb string to E, or as near as you can get it, then place the second finger of your left hand on the first string at the fifth fret, which is E, and tune it to sound like the short string; place second finger on the second string at the third fret, and tune the second string to sound like the first string open; place second finger on third string at the fourth fret, and tune it to the second open string; place your finger on fourth or bass string at the seventh fret, and tune it to the third open string; and your banjo will be in good tune. When the banjo is in tune, the following notes are made on the open strings:



The manner of Touching the Strings.

To obtain a full and mellow tone, it is necessary to apply some force with the end of the fingers, not touching the strings with the nails, as they thereby produce a snapping, disagreeable sound. The fingers meet the

BANJO METHOD.

strings obliquely, so as to cause them to vibrate across the finger-board. They should press and slide along the strings in a sort of undulating or scooping manner. The fingers of the left hand should press the strings very close on the frets, by which the sound is formed and made more clear and pure.

Stroke Playing.

Partly close the hand, bringing the fourth finger near the palm, then each of the following fingers a little farther from the palm, bringing the fore-finger an inch and a half from the inside of the thumb. Notes to be made by the thumb will have a cross, thus: × Notes to be made by the back of the nail of the fore-finger, will have the letter N. Notes to be made by the back of the nail of the second finger, will have N 2. The stroke is made by striking down with the back of the nail.

On Fingering.

Right Hand Fingering.

As a general rule, the two first strings are mostly used by the first and second fingers, viz: the first finger is used on the second string, and the second finger on the first string; the thumb commanding the third, fourth and fifth (or thumb string). The first and second strings are picked upwards; and the third, fourth and fifth downwards. The third finger is not used except in chords and arpeggios. (See arpeggios.)

Left Hand Fingering.

For the first finger, No. 1; for the second finger, No. 2; for the third finger, No. 3; for the fourth finger, No. 4; for the open strings, 0.

Of the Keys commonly used on the Banjo.

The banjo may be played in all the keys; but like all other instruments, it has some keys more favorable to it than others. Those which are most favorable are:

A, three sharps.

D, two sharps.

A minor, natural signature.

E, four sharps.

G, one sharp.

F# minor, three sharps.

The other keys are difficult, because they require too often the use of the barre, but I shall introduce other keys in this work, and the pupil can use them or not.

The Barre.

The barre is made by pressing the first finger of the left hand on two or more strings at one time, and on the same fret. To make the barre with ease, it is necessary to raise the wrist, and to place the thumb entirely behind the neck of the banjo, leaving the remaining fingers free to stop the strings when desired. See example.



Of the Chords.

The union of two or more notes played together as one:



Of Arpeggios.

An arpeggio is a number of notes played successively in uniform order, and which, when united, form chords. Arpeggios are used on the banjo, because they produce an agreeable effect on the instrument; and as studies, they give strength and agility to the fingers of the right hand. In making chords or arpeggios of four or five notes, the fingers of the right hand are to be placed one string higher, as follows: the first finger on the third string, the second finger on the the second string, and the third finger on the first string, the thumb commanding the fourth and fifth (or thumb string). In practising the arpeggio, the lowest tone is to be taken first, and the highest tone the

last. Whenever a chord is to be arpeggio'd, the sign, thus: is placed before the chord, and the notes are played rapidly in succession from the lowest upwards.

Example of Chords Arpeggio'd.



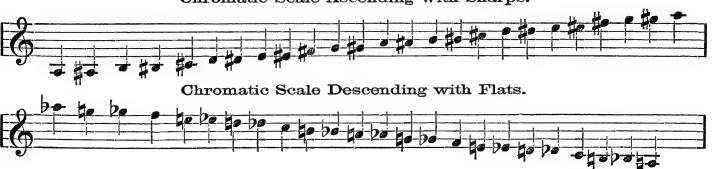
To execute the arpeggio well, before striking the strings the fingers of the left hand should be placed at once on the notes forming the chord, on which the arpeggio is to be played; and when the last note is struck the fingers should be raised to pass to the next chord. This rule is indispensable. If the fingers were to leave each note as soon as it was struck, the vibration of the entire chord would be obstructed, of which each note is an essential part. The fingers of the right hand should not touch the strings, but to make them vibrate.

Of Harmonics.

Harmonics are produced by placing a finger of the left hand across the strings of the banjo at certain divisions of the finger-board. The finger must press lightly, yet with sufficient force to prevent the string from vibrating as if open. As soon as the string:has been struck with sufficient force, the finger must be taken off. Harmonics are produced at the 4th, 5th, 7th, 12th and 18th frets.

The Chromatic Scale for the Banjo.





BANJO METHOD.

Spelling the Chords.

CHORDS. What are they?

A CHORD in music is the same as a Word in language. In the English language there are 26 letters. In the Musical language there are seven letters, namely, A, B, C, D, E, F, G.

In spelling a Chord, or Musical Word we name every other letter of a scale; that is, A, C, E, spells a chord which is named after the first letter, and is called the Common Chord of A, and B, D, F, spells the Common Chord of B; and so on. Of course, as we can begin on A, B, C, D, E, F or G, we can spell 7 Common Chords.

If we name *four* letters, as A, C, E, G, we are spelling what is called a *Dischord*, or Chord of the 7th, which also is named after the first letter. Thus we can spell a Chord of the 7th of A, of B, of C, of D, of E, of F, and of G.

Our musical alphabet is so brief that we could spell but very few chords, were it not for the flats and sharps. We can spell the Common Chord of A in 3 ways; A, C, E, or A#, C#, E#, or AÞ, CÞ, EÞ. We can do the same thing with all the other chords.

It will be seen that, as there are seven Common Chords, and seven Chords of the Seventh, and as we can spell each one in three different ways,—there are, in music, reckoning all the ways of spelling, 42 chords.

The following are the chords, spelt without sharps or flats:

No. 1. No. 2. No. 1. No. 2.



For simplicity's sake, we may call the Common Chord, in each case, No. 1, and the Chord of the 7th, which begins on the same letter, No. 2.

NOTE TO THE LEARNER. Although the above chords may be said to be the only ones in music, we can make a very great variety by changing the order of the letters.

Albert, Charles, Edward and George, are brothers; always brothers, whether we say, Charles, George, Edward and Albert, or George, Charles, Albert and Edward, or name them in any other order.

A, C, E, G, are always the *Chord of the 7th* of A, whether we say, C, E, G, A, or G, E, C, A, or E, A, C, G, or name them in any other order. The same is true of all other chords.

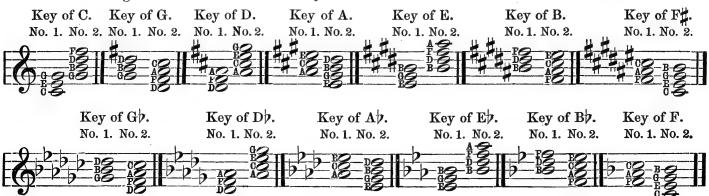
Note to Harmonists. Of course it is well known, that there are chords of the 9th, of the 9th and 11th, &c. But as the peculiar letters of these chords may be considered as passing notes, or retardations, or suspensions, we do not here describe them.

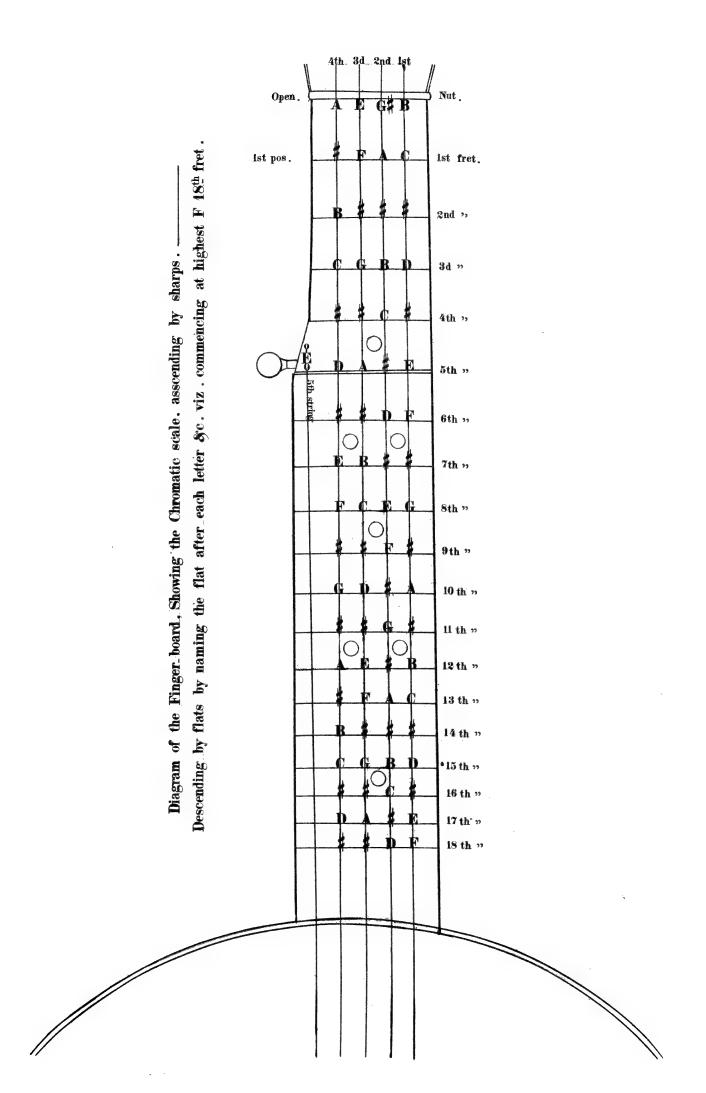
Only Two Chords in Each Key.

Although a tune in any key or scale may contain many different chords, there are only two chords, which are, so to speak, the exclusive property of each key.

Therefore, if a learner can remember and *spell* the two cords of each key, he knows all the chords in common use in music. One of these chords in every key, is on the first letter of the scale, and is a Common Chord (No. 1). The other chord is on the fifth letter of the scale, and is a chord of the 7th (No. 2).

The following are the two chords in each key.





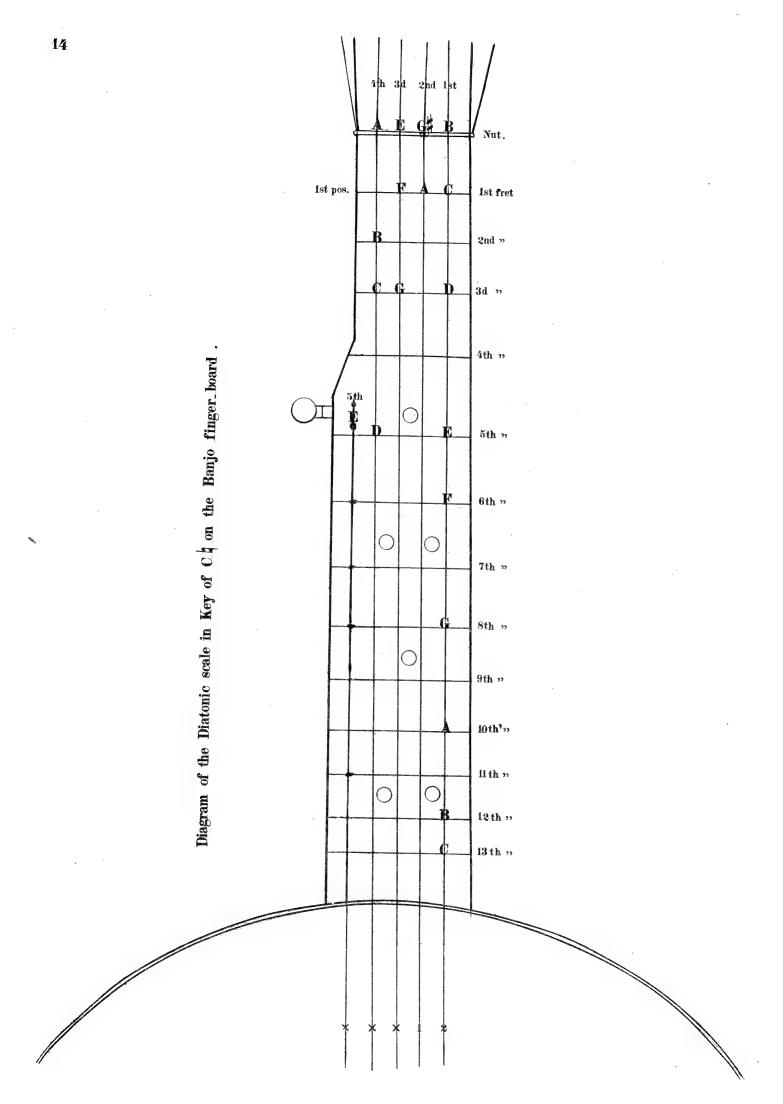


Diagram of the Natural Scale, (Key of C.) showing both the letters upon the Banjo, and the music staves, at the same time.

The music staves running across the Diagrams, giving the number of the fret and position where each letter is found, both upon the Banjo and music, also the string at one glance. In studying this, the Pupil must surely learn to read by note.

The following diagrams are played in the same manner but in different keys and by observing

the sharps as they occur. The figures at the bottom of the diagram are for the right hand.

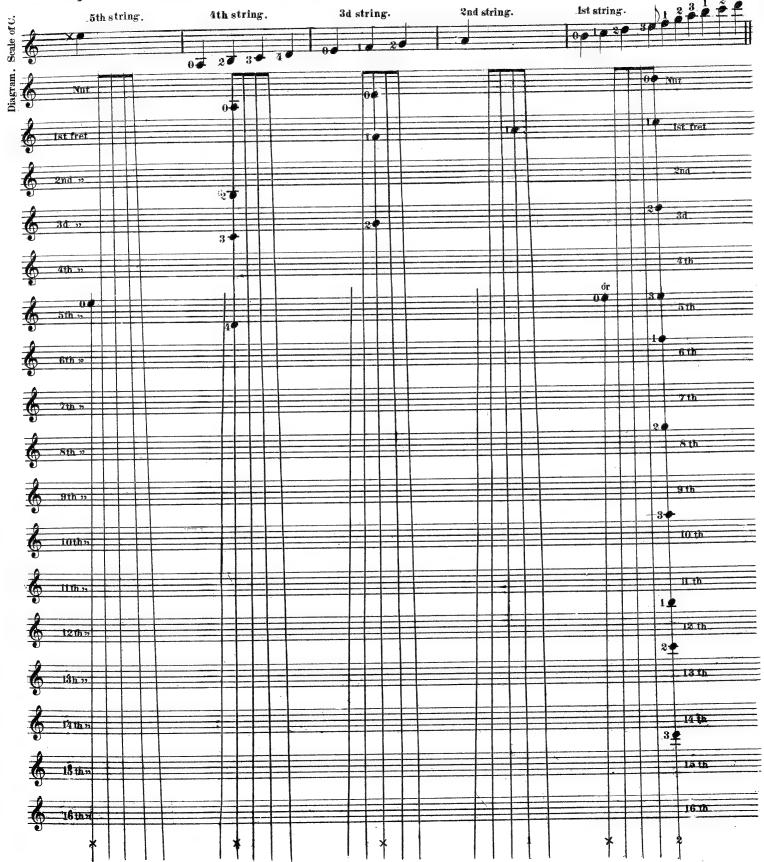


Diagram of the scale of A 3(###) sharps...

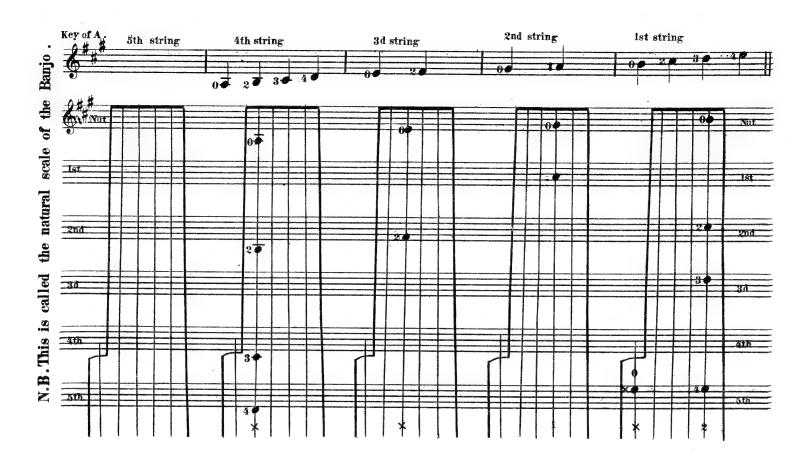
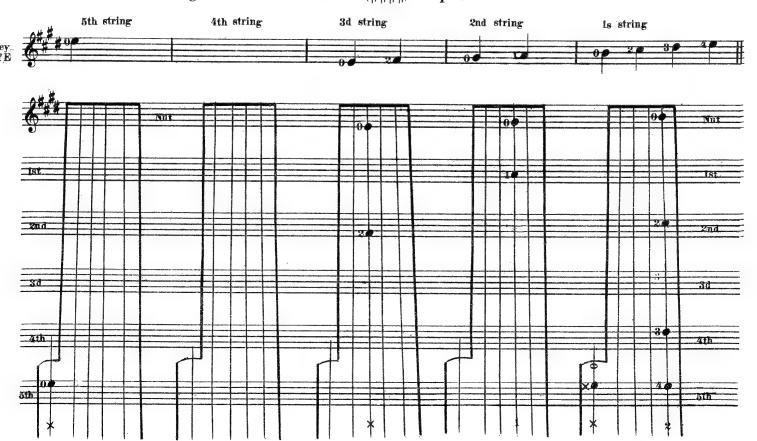


Diagram of the scale of E 4($\sharp\sharp\sharp$) sharps .



N.B. The Pupil will notice in learning the following diagrams, that they are composed of Chords instead of Scales-1st learn the key note of each Exercise, 2nd observe No.1 No.2 No.3 No.4 No.2 No.1, over the chords on the stave in this order, which represent all the chords in each scale. These figures are taken from certain degrees of the scale in each key, viz: No.1 is the Tonic chord (or the first letter of the scale.) No.2 the Dominant 7th (or 5th letter of the scale.) No.3 the Sub-Dominant (or 4th letter, do.) No.4 the Dominant harmony, 2nd inversion of the Tonic (or the first letter, do.) The order must be preserved and played, (as written in the key of A, 3 sharps), in every key-viz: No.1, No.2 back to No.1, No.3, No.4, No.2 and always end at No.4, the key note. By learning this thoroughly the pupil will discover that the chords in any piece of music are composed of the same chords in each key.

DIAGRAM showing the notes on the music and on the Banjo.

Chords of A Major.

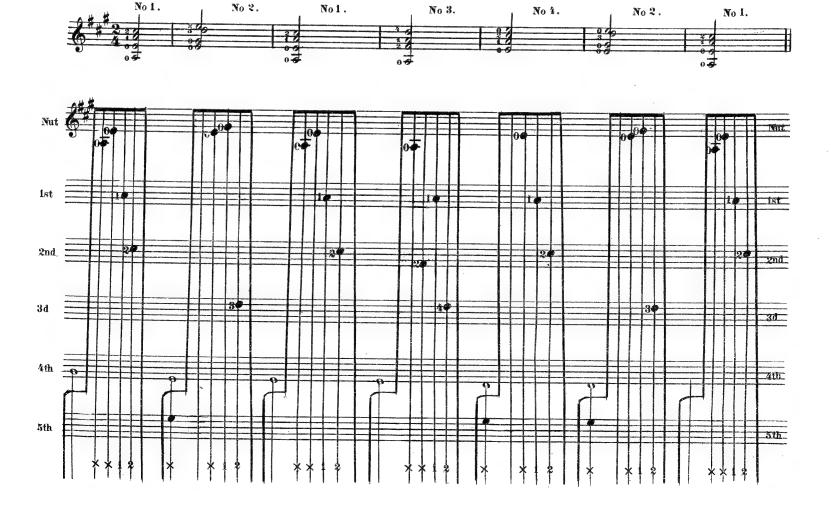


Diagram showing the notes on the music, and on the Banjo. Chords of E major.

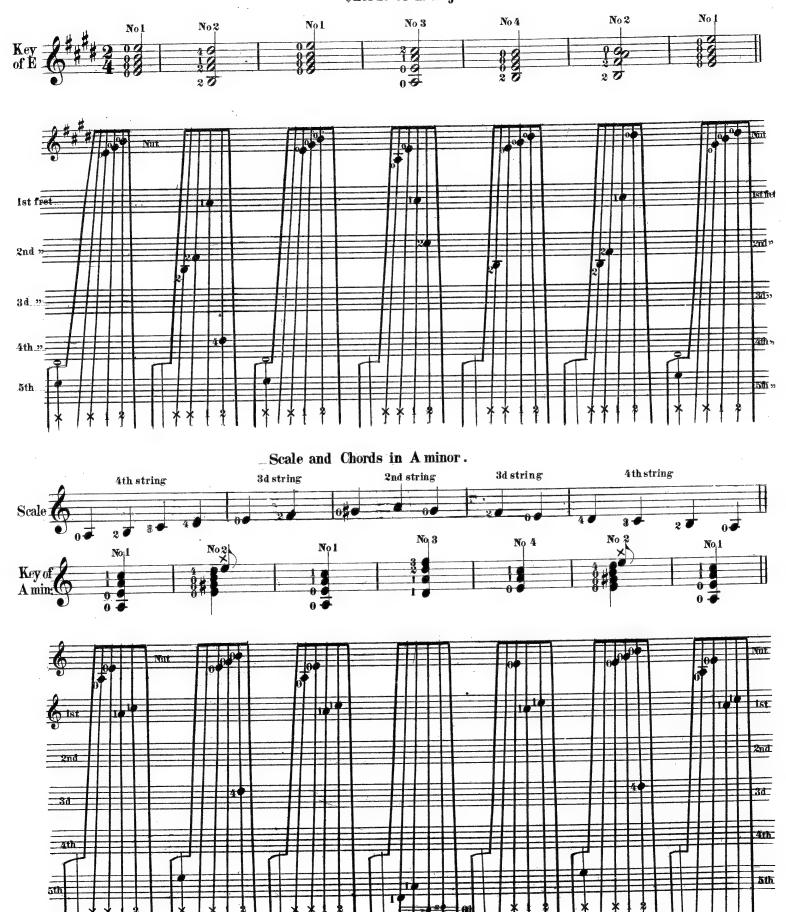
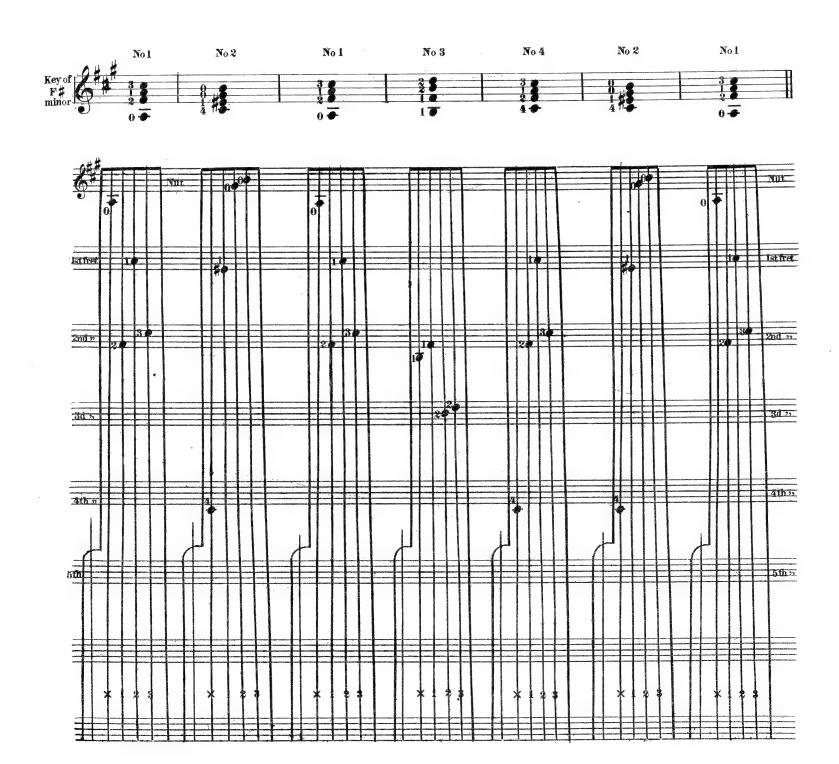
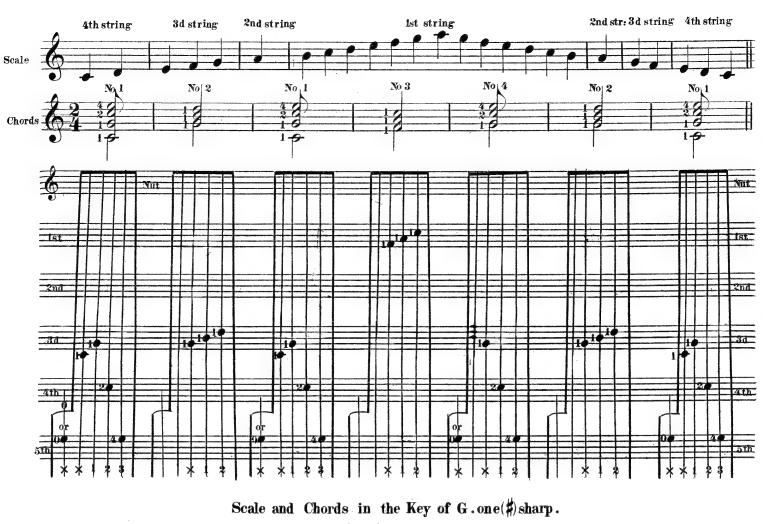


Diagram of the Key of F# minor.

Chords in the key of $\mathbf{F} \sharp \mathbf{minor}$.





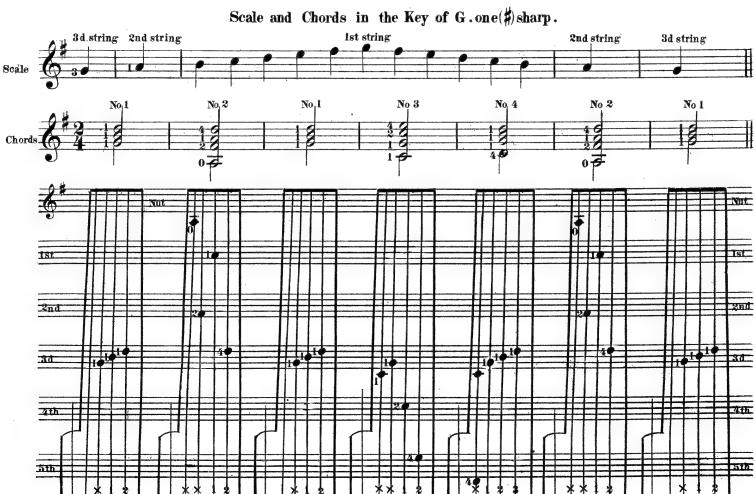
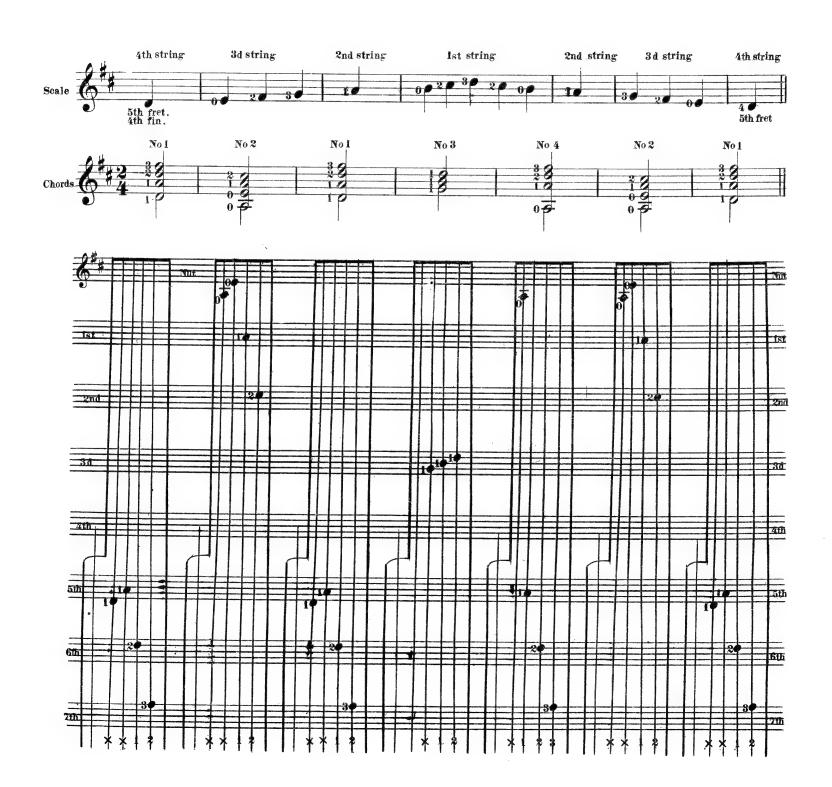
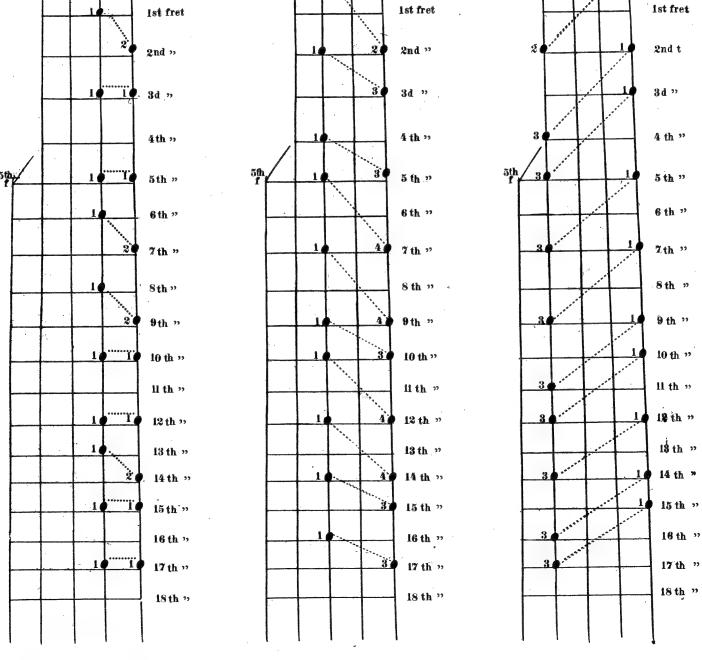


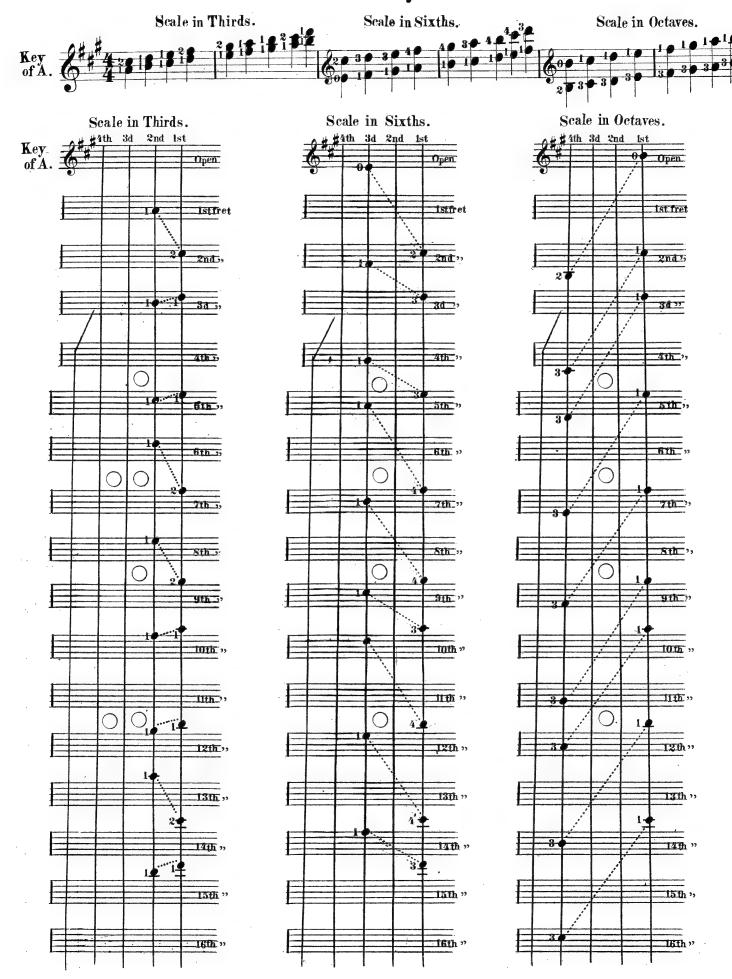
Diagram of the Key of D . Scale and Chords in the key of D 2(##) sharps .





N.B. These Diagrams give the Pupil the frets upon the Banjo.

Scales of Thirds, Sixths and Octaves. Also shows the letter upon the music and Banjo combined.



The pupil practising these two Diagrams will first learn to name the chords and keys. Place the 1st finger on the 1st fret (barre); the first finger will then be Bb and F; the second will be Bb and the fourth finger will be on D— all this making the **chord of** Bb. By sliding the fingers in this same position up to each fret successively every major key is produced.

To produce the relative Minor of each of these Major keys, place the 1st finger on the first fret, (which marks the position of the major key); the second finger on the second fret which will give the relative minor key note; the third finger on the same fret as per diagram completes the chord

of F#. (F# A C#)_

Observe the flats or sharps of the different keys, Major or Minor, as you play them. Place the first finger, then the second and third; slide from one fret to another, the first finger moving first, and the other fingers placed afterwards as per diagram.

The practice of these two Diagrams will enable the pupil to play in every key upon the Banjo. First practice the 3d and 4th strings together, next 1st and 2nd strings. Then all 4 strings together.



EXERCISE FOR THE PRACTICE OF EVERY POSITION AND KEY ON THE BANJO.

1st observe the figures Nos 1,2&3 over the staves in each key both Major and Minor _ No 1 is the key note chord in any key. No 2 is the Dominant 7th in Major or Minor. No 3 is the Sub-Dominant (or borrowd chord.) and is taken from another key, viz: No 3 chord in A (three sharps), borrowd from No 1 chord in D,(two sharps); and in every other key, the Subdominant is borrowd from the No 1 of the next in rotation &c.

2nd. observe at the commencement, the key and position are marked.

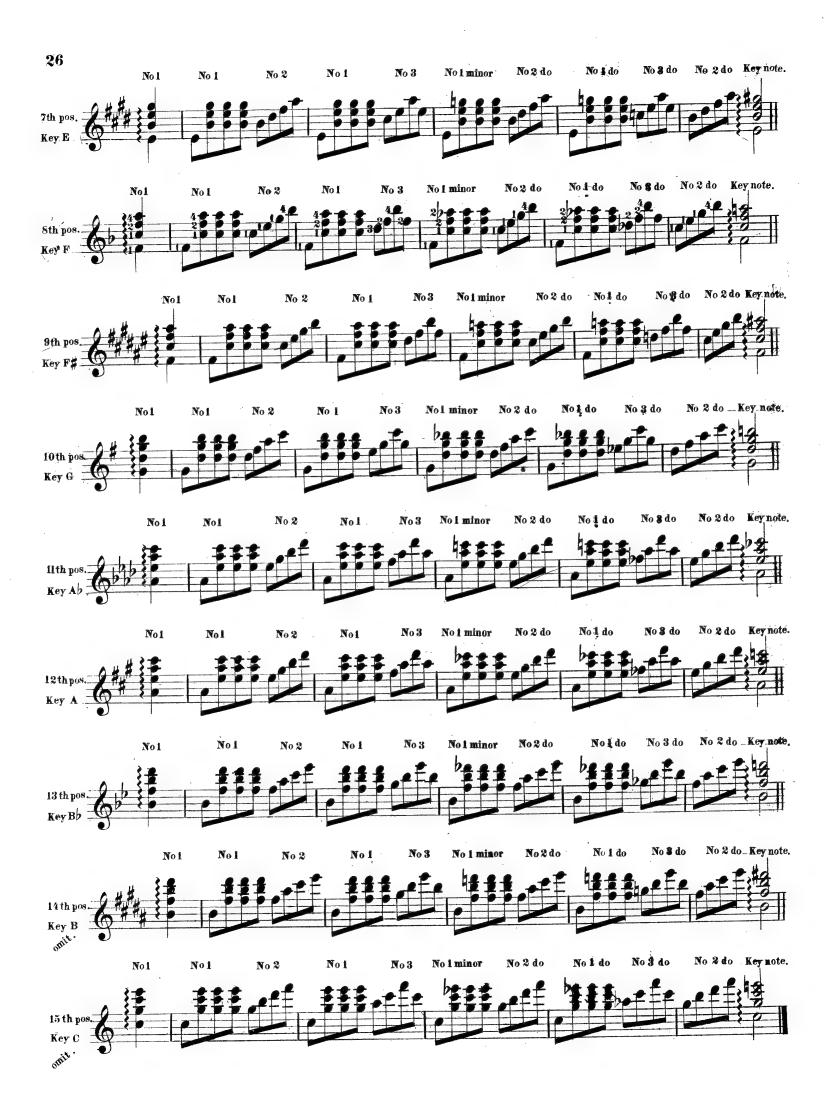
3d. That the 1st finger, (which marks the position) is kept still, until you have played the whole stave through each key, both major and minor.

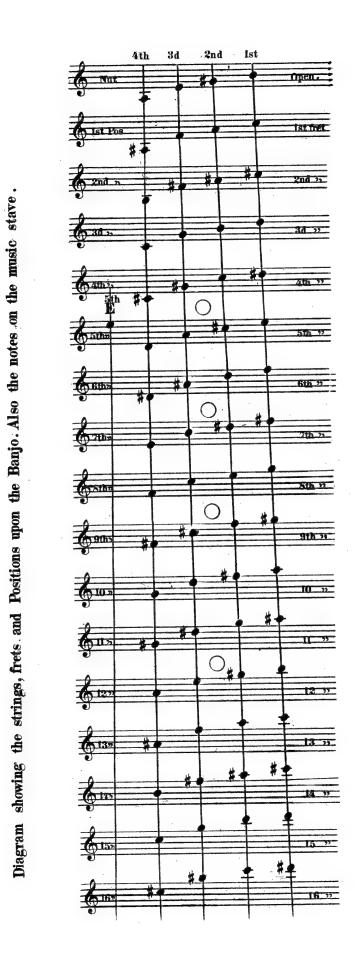
4th also notice that the No 2 chord, (Dominant 7th) is precisely the same in the Major and Minor keys. No 1 & 3 chords are not alike.

The following exercises are good for advanced Pupils or any Banjoists. Try them.



N.B. Every key of these two pages must be fingered with the left hand the same as given in the Key of Bb_See diagram on opposite page.

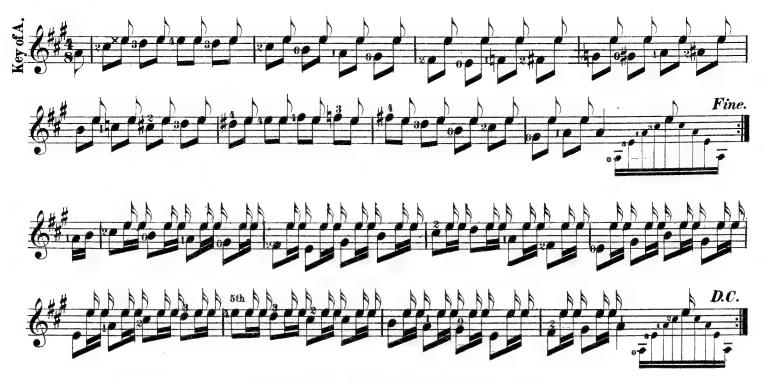




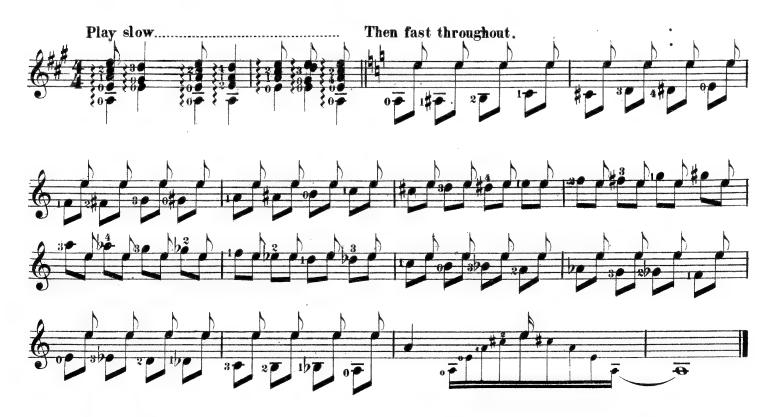
This Diagram is very benefical to the Pupil, as it teaches the Chromatic scale upon each string, by starting at the Nut, and ascending in half tones by sharps, (##) and at the same time teaches the positions of the notes upon the music lines.

EXERCISE FOR THE THUMB STRING.

Play this first slow, and increase the movement to very fast.



EXERCISE OF THE CHROMATIC SCALE. and the 5th string (thumb string) ascend by sharps(#) descend by flats.(b)



N.B. Pick the scale notes with 1st finger on 4th,3d and 2nd strings, and 2nd finger on 1st string. Left hand use 1st, 2nd and 3d fingers on the first half tones, and repeat them ascending on each string. Descending 3d, 2nd and 1st fingers, and repeat them on each string.

N.B. Practise this exercise until you can play it very fast.

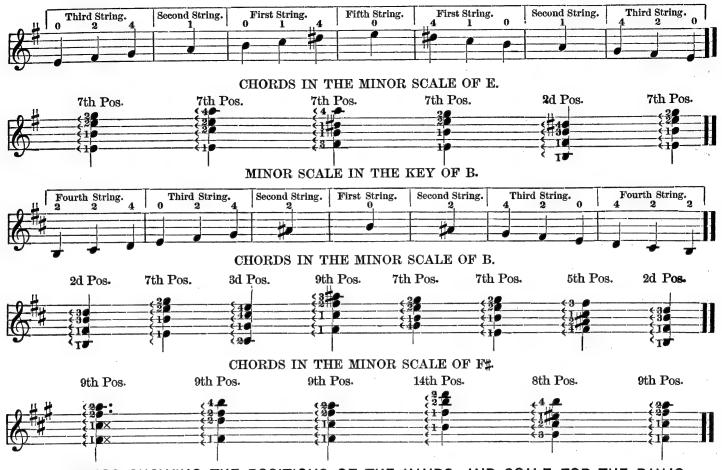
EXERCISES OF CHROMATIC OCTAVES.





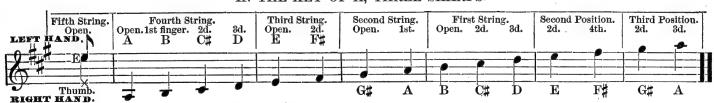
EXERCISES OF MINOR SCALES, CHORDS AND POSITIONS.

MINOR SCALE IN THE KEY OF E.



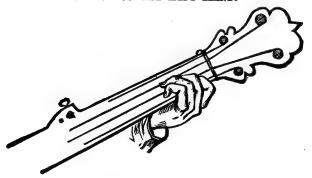
DRAWINGS SHOWING THE POSITIONS OF THE HANDS, AND SCALE FOR THE BANJO.

IN THE KEY OF A, THREE SHARPS.



Position of the Left Hand.

Position of the Left Hand in Making Harmonics.



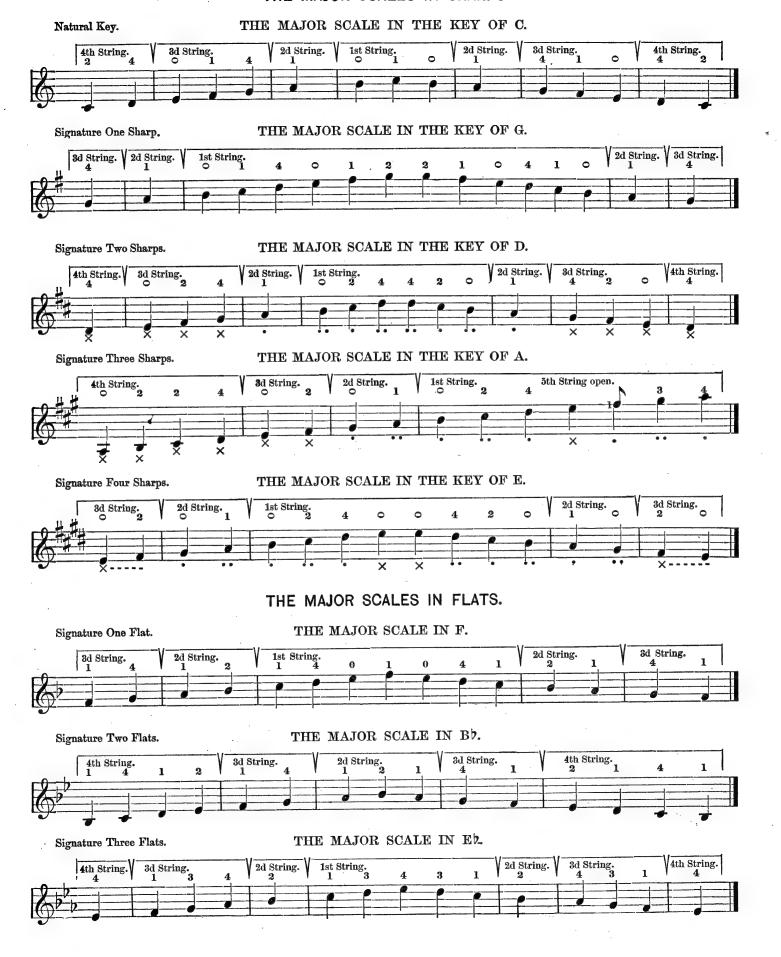
Position of the Right Hand,



POSITION OF THE LEFT HAND IN MAKING A BARRE.



THE MAJOR SCALES IN SHARPS.













MARCH FROM OPERA OF "LINDA." Concluded.



Copyright, 1886, by OLIVER DITSON & Co.

THE SPANISH FANDANGO.

NEW WITH 4th STRING SOLO.





HOME, SWEET HOME.

WITH VARIATIONS FOR BANJO.

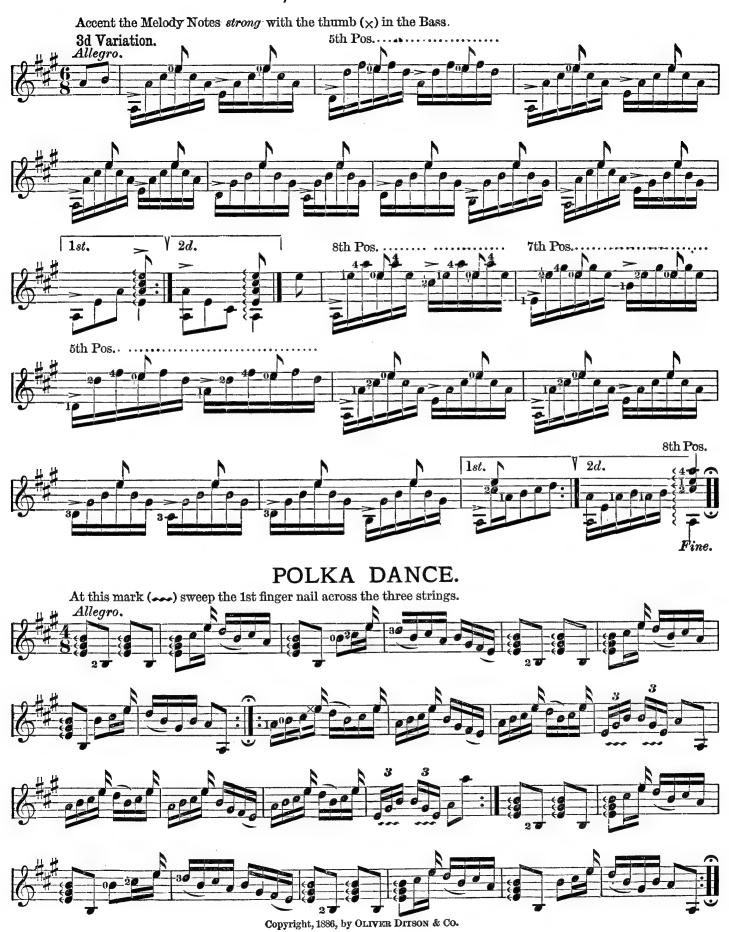
AND SOLO ON FOURTH STRING.



Copyright, 1886, by OLIVER DITSON & Co.

HOME, SWEET HOME.







Copyright, 1886, by OLIVER DITSON & Co.

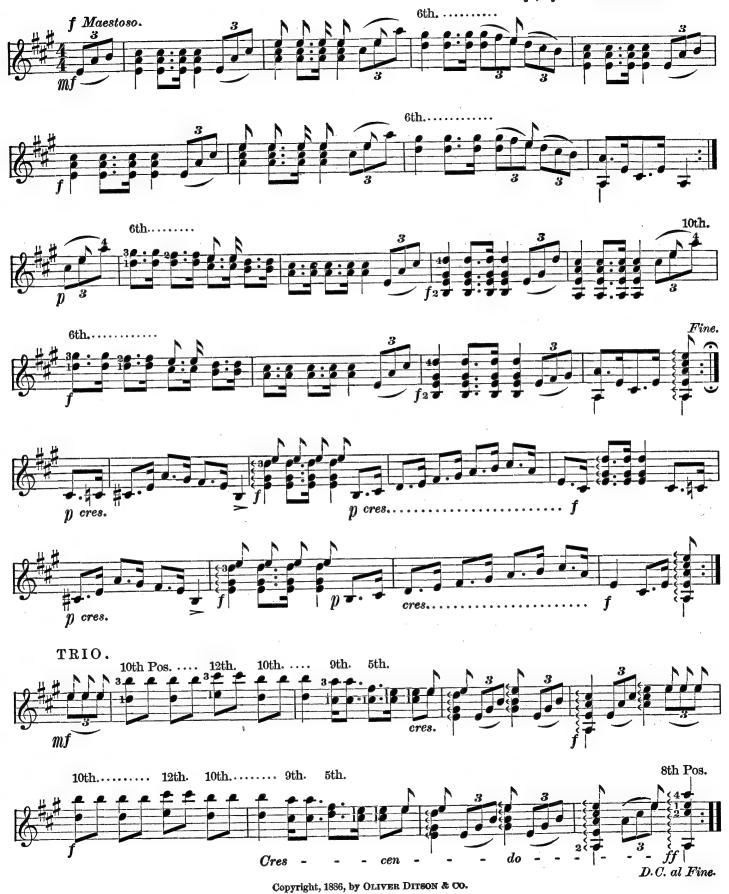
MAY FLOWER MAZURKA.



N. B.—Observe the melody in Bass to be played all upon the 4th string. See solo parts.

THE EVERETT GRAND MARCH.

For the Banjo, by W. O. PETERSON.









WHEN THE SWALLOWS HOMEWARD FLY.

Arranged for Banjo by CURTISS.



ILLUSIONI.

GRAND WALTZ.



N. B. All the single notes to be played on the fourth string. Strong accent upon the half notes.

Copyright, 1886, by OLIVER DITSON & Co.



THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER.



FANFANI MARCH.

BANJO SOLO.

VON SUPPE.
Arr. by A. BAUR.





FLOW'RET FORGET-ME-NOT.



Copyright, 1886, by OLIVER DITSON & Co.



"PRETTY AS A PICTURE."





TURKISH REVEILLE.

PATROL MARCH.





THE CARNIVAL WALTZ.

Composed for Banjo by GEORGE C. DOBSON, of Boston.



"BOHEMIAN GIRL."

BANJO SOLO.





FANTASIA FOR BANJO.





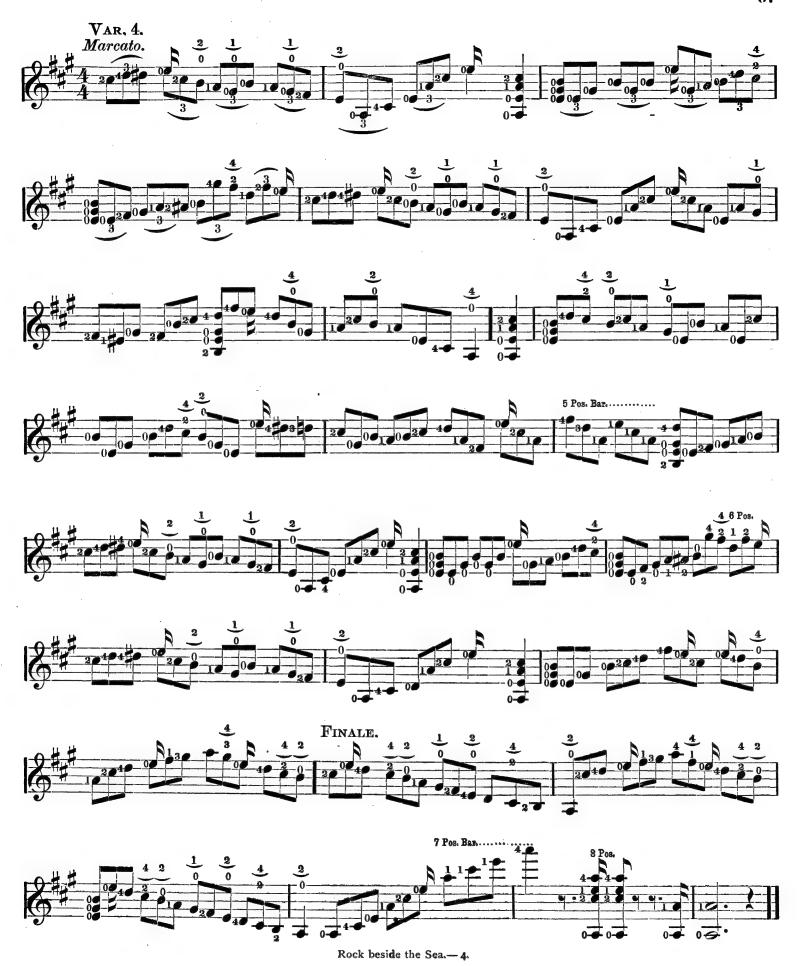
"ROCK BESIDE THE SEA."

Varied by A. BAUR.









MEDLEY FROM MIKADO.

Arr. for Banjo by W. A. COLE.







THE BROKEN PITCHER.







TIT FOR TAT.

Composed by H. PONTET. Arr. for Banjo by GAD ROBINSON. And walk a - long the fields a - bout a mile, By the wil - low copse, where the path - way stops, You'll find a ve - ry high and awkward stile; It has widely To cross it by my-self I am a - fraid; dare that four high steps, so set, way re-pair, Un - less at hand I've strong and friendly aid. 'Twas there, one day, in the month of May, 9d Bar.... Copyright, 1885, by OLIVER DITSON & Co.





THE BRIDGE.



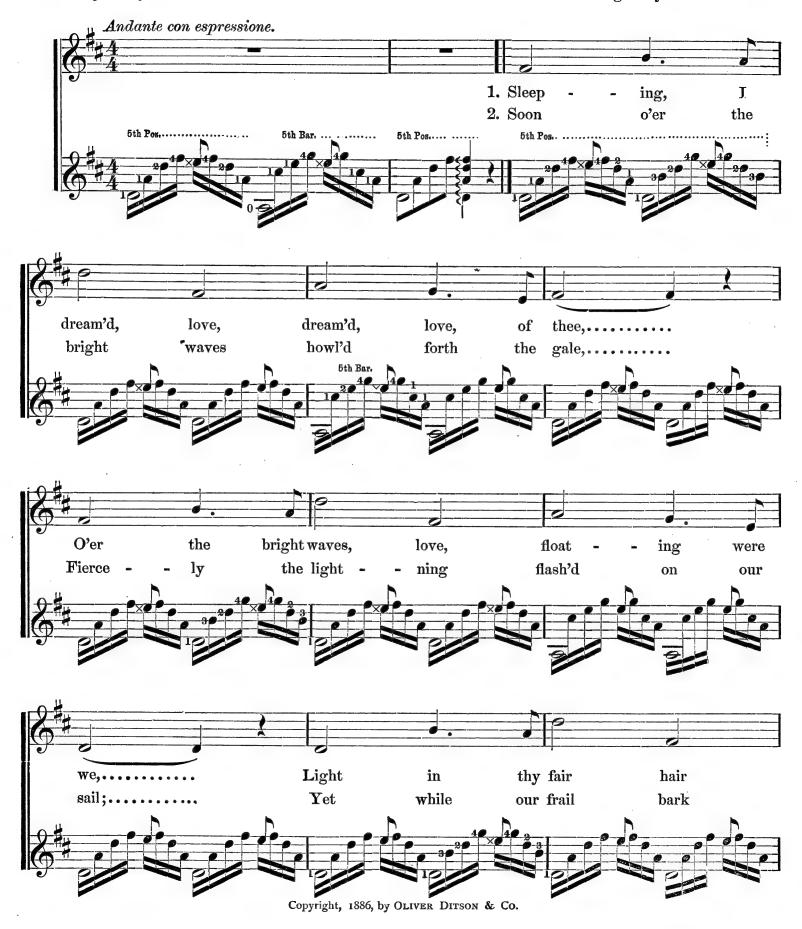




SLEEPING, I DREAMED, LOVE.

Composd by W. V. WALLACE.

Arranged by CURTISS.





· SEE-SAW.





LA PALOMA.





DREAM FACES.







IN THE GLOAMING,





OLD FOLKS AT HOME.





Copyright, 1882 by OLIVER DITSON & Co.

OLD FOLKS AT HOME. Concluded.



OH, DEM GOLDEN SLIPPERS!







IN THE MORNING BY THE BRIGHT LIGHT.





INDEX.

The Slur and Slide, 2	Scale and Chords in A Minor,	18
Elementary Principles of Music, 3	Diagram and Chords in the Key of F# Minor,	
Acme Banjo Method, 9	Scale and Chords in the Key of C,	20
Manner in which the Banjo is Strung, 9	Scale and Chords in the Key of G,	20 20
Holding the Banjo, 9	Scale and Chords in the Key of D,	21
uning the Banjo, 9	Diagram of the Third, Sixth and Octaves (on the Banjo)	$\frac{1}{22}$
Touching the Strings, 9	Diagram of the Third, Sixth and Octaves (on the Music)	23
Stroke Playing, 10	Diagram of All the Major and Minor Chords upon	•
Fingering (Right and Left Hand),	the Banjo,	24
Keys Commonly Used on the Banjo, 10	Exercises for practice in every different Key that can	- ~
The Barre, 10	be taken upon the Banjo,	25
Of the Chords, 10	Diagram Showing Chromatic Scales on all the Strings,	27
Of Arpeggios, 11	Exercises of Chromatic Scales and Thumb String, 2	28
Example of Chords Arpeggio'd,	Exercises of Chromatic Octaves,	
Of Harmonies, 11	Usual Style of Accompaniments for Singing,	29
Chromatic Scale, 11	Arpeggio Movement,	
Spelling the Chords,	Exercises of Minor Scales, Chords, and Positions, 3	31
Diagram of Finger-board, Showing Chromatic Scale, . 13	Drawing, Showing the Position of the Hands, &	31
Diagram of Finger-board, Showing Diatonic Scale, 14	The Major Scales in Sharps,	32
Diagram of Natural Scale (Key of C), 15	The Major Scales in Flats,	32
Diagram of the Scale of A,	Exercises of the Positions and Chords in the most	
Diagram of the Scale of E,	Available Keys,	33
Diagram Showing the notes on the Music, and on the	Exercises in Thirds and Sixths,	
Banjo. Chords of A Major, 17		
Diagram Showing the Notes on the Music, and on the		
Banjo. Chords of E Major,	,	
-	/:	
	MENTAL.	
	MENTAL.	14
INSTRUI		
INSTRUI African Polka,	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka,	34
African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, 4 May Morning Waltz, 5	34 47
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka,	34 47 48
INSTRU I African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka,	34 47 48 42
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, 4 May Morning Waltz, 5 My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, 4 Old Folks at Home, 4 Polka Dance, 4	34 47 48 42 56
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, 4 May Morning Waltz, 5 My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, 4 Old Folks at Home, 4 Polka Dance, 4 Pretty as a Picture, 5	34 47 48 42 56
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, 4 May Morning Waltz, 5 My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, 4 Old Folks at Home, 4 Polka Dance, 4 Pretty as a Picture, 5 Rock Beside the Sea, with Variations, 6	34 47 48 42 56 64 47
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, May Morning Waltz, My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, Old Folks at Home, Polka Dance, Pretty as a Picture, Rock Beside the Sea, with Variations, Rosa Lee, Selections from "Mikado," Shepherd Boy, 4	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, May Morning Waltz, My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, Old Folks at Home, Polka Dance, Pretty as a Picture, Rock Beside the Sea, with Variations, Rosa Lee, Selections from "Mikado,"	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka,	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68 46 38
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, 4 May Morning Waltz, 5 My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, 4 Old Folks at Home, 4 Polka Dance, 4 Pretty as a Picture, 5 Rock Beside the Sea, with Variations, 6 Rosa Lee, 5 Selections from "Mikado," 6 Shepherd Boy, 5 Spanish Fandango, (with 4th String Solo), 5	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68 46 38
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35 Last Rose of Summer, 51	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka,	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68 46 38 48
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, May Morning Waltz, My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, Old Folks at Home, Polka Dance, Pretty as a Picture, Rock Beside the Sea, with Variations, Rosa Lee, Selections from "Mikado," Shepherd Boy, Spanish Fandango, (with 4th String Solo), Turkish Reveille, We have Lived and Loved together,	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68 46 38 48
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35 Last Rose of Summer, 51	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, May Morning Waltz, My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, Old Folks at Home, Polka Dance, Pretty as a Picture, Rock Beside the Sea, with Variations, Rosa Lee, Selections from "Mikado," Shepherd Boy, Spanish Fandango, (with 4th String Solo), Turkish Reveille, We have Lived and Loved together,	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68 46 38 48
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35 Last Rose of Summer, 51 March from the opera of "Linda," 36	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka,	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68 46 38 48
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35 Last Rose of Summer, 51 March from the opera of "Linda," 36	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, May Morning Waltz, My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, Old Folks at Home, Polka Dance, Pretty as a Picture, Rock Beside the Sea, with Variations, Rosa Lee, Selections from "Mikado," Shepherd Boy, Spanish Fandango, (with 4th String Solo), Turkish Reveille, We have Lived and Loved together, When the Swallows Homeward Fly, CAL.	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68 48 48 49
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35 Last Rose of Summer, 51 March from the opera of "Linda," 36 VOC Dream Faces, 86	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, May Morning Waltz, My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, Old Folks at Home, Polka Dance, Pretty as a Picture, Rock Beside the Sea, with Variations, Rosa Lee, Selections from "Mikado," Shepherd Boy, Spanish Fandango, (with 4th String Solo), Turkish Reveille, We have Lived and Loved together, When the Swallows Homeward Fly, EAL. See-Saw,	34 47 48 42 56 64 47 68 48 49
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35 Last Rose of Summer, 51 March from the opera of "Linda," 36 VOC Dream Faces, 86 In the Gloaming, 89	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka,	34 47 48 42 56 46 47 68 46 48 48 49
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35 Last Rose of Summer, 51 March from the opera of "Linda," 36 VOC Dream Faces, 86 In the Gloaming, 89 In the Morning by the Bright Light, 94	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka,	34 47 48 42 56 46 46 46 46 48 49 82 87
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35 Last Rose of Summer, 51 March from the opera of "Linda," 36 VOC Dream Faces, 86 In the Gloaming, 89 In the Morning by the Bright Light, 94 Oh, Dem Golden Slippers, 92	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka, May Morning Waltz, My Lodging is on the Cold Ground, Old Folks at Home, Polka Dance, Pretty as a Picture, Rock Beside the Sea, with Variations, Rosa Lee, Selections from "Mikado," Shepherd Boy, Spanish Fandango, (with 4th String Solo), Turkish Reveille, We have Lived and Loved together, When the Swallows Homeward Fly, CAL. See-Saw, Sleeping I Dreamed, Love, The Bridge. The Broken Pitcher,	34 47 48 42 56 46 46 46 46 46 48 49 82 77
INSTRUI African Polka, 43 Air Tyrolean, 37 Angel Gabriel, 35 Bohemian Girl, 60 Carnival Waltz, 59 Everett Grand March, 45 Exercise Polka, 36 Fanfani March, 52 Fantasia, 62 Flow'ret, Forget-me-not. (Gavotte), 54 Home, Sweet Home, with Variations, 40 Illusioni Grand Waltz, 50 La Melancholie Waltz, 35 Last Rose of Summer, 51 March from the opera of "Linda," 36 VOC Dream Faces, 86 In the Gloaming, 89 In the Morning by the Bright Light, 94	MENTAL. May Flower Mazurka,	34 47 48 42 56 46 46 46 46 46 48 49 82 77

A FINE INSTRUCTION BOOK FOR THE GUITAR.

It has stood the test of many years' use, and TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND copies have been sold. The number must be conceded to be a very large one, since the number of those who learn the Guitar bears but a small proportion to those who study the Piano, or who use the various methods for learning to sing. The Instruction Book is

CURTISS' METHOD FOR GUITAR,

BY N. P. B. CURTISS.

PRICE. \$3.00

The book at present brought to notice is an improved one, the first | posed and arranged expressly for this work. editions having been revised and changed, as experience in their use dietated.

It contains the Elementary Principles of Music, together with the lessons and exercises needed to acquire a perfect knowledge of the Guitar.

In addition to all this, it has a choice collection of admired songs, com-

Notice that pupils who have mastered this excellent instructor are qualified at once to use the method of playing and accompanying indicated in Mr. Curtiss' work, to which this leaf is attached

ZITHER NEW ME'

By N. P. B. CURTISS and CHARLES BEHR.

Price. \$1.50.

What is a Zither? Although the use of the instrument has greatly | extended, and altrough it is the modernized form of an exceedingly ancient instrument, many people have not seen it, and need to have a brief

The Guitar has been, and always will be a favorite instrument. Its only lack is power. Being a very light and portable affair, one cannot well give it the strings for a strong bass. Now the Zither possesses these. It lies flat as you play it, so that both hands can be used on the strings. While one hand plays the air in guitar fashion, the other hand accompanies with strong

tones and chords upon the lower and larger strings, making a full harmony, which is quite acceptable in public performances.

ZITHER NEW METHOD contains the Elementary Principles in German and English, plenty of Exercises and Examples for practice, and also a choice collection of pieces for study and enjoyment.

Persons who have studied the Zither Method are quite competent to take advantage, at once, of Mr. Curtiss' new method of music-reading as explained in the book containing this page.

CURTISS' SIGHT MUSIC READER

AND INDICATOR FOR PIANO OR ORGAN.

By N. P. B. CURTISS.

Price, with Indicator, \$1.00.

This new book is indeed a novelty, in its way, containing, as it does, music that can be played by any one.

Every Tune in the Book Can be Played by Anybody, without the Knowledge of Music, by using

Curtiss' Indicator.

which accompanies this "Sight Music Reader." Full directions and fifty popular songs are contained in the Music Reader.

Curtiss' "Indicator" tells you: -

How to take all the positions of the chords with the right hand, and READER with the INDICATOR. See price above.

all the inversions of the chords in the Bass (or left hand.) How to play all the scales with the left hand. How to play every scale with right hand. How to play all the arpeggio scales, with either hand or both together. How to play any piece of sacred music, in four parts, by simply looking at the melody or Treble part. How to harmonize every scale at sight. How to play the Bass parts in Piano Duetts (or four hand pieces.) How to compose music correctly. How to modulate from any one key to any other you desire, the quickest way possible. And there are other rules also. Any body can learn the rules in ten minutes. Send for the SIGHT MUSIC

THE ACME BANJO METHOD,

By N. P. B. CURTISS. Price, \$1.25.

ER BEFORE OFFERED TO BANJO STUDENTS.

A book that should be examined by every student and teacher of the Banjo. A novel feature of the Method is A PERFECT AND FULL SET OF DIAGRAMS, showing every key, chord and scale on the Banjo. Very simple and very instructive. The first Rudiments are also given, in a concise and easily-under- author's experience, gained by years of study and teaching.

A NEW METHOD, PRESENTING NEW IDEAS. SOMETHING NEV- | stood manner, and there is a choice collection of Progressive instru-MENTAL AND VOCAL PIECES, selected and arranged expressly for this work. The success of Mr. Curtiss' other books has been great; but, it is predicted that this "ACME BANJO METHOD" will surpass all his other books in popularity. It is new in ideas and construction. It contains the results of the

OLIVER DITSON & CO., BOSTON.

NEW YORK: CHAS. H. DITSON & CO. CHICAGO: LYON & HEALY. PHILA.: J. E. DITSON & CO.